

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of the Study

Freedom is the most crucial thing for human being in his existence. Histories have told us how they fight for freedom since the days of old. We can see how the Indian fight to defend their land from white people, the Niggers fight for their equality as well as the Aborigin in Australia, and other people in different country fight to be free from colonialism and imperialism. In our day life, people are faced with the social condition which tied their freedom. We have to dress up in a new style in order not to be old fashioned, we have to wear tuxedo in business meeting, women have to appear like women in ordinary form; sexy, make up their faces, and dressed up in women style in order to be beautiful. We

are trapped in such situations; limited, classified, defined and fixed in a thousand institutions and condition.

Having regarded to the importance of freedom as an essential need for human being, it is not surprising if freedom is discussed in every field of study. The freedom of citizen is discussed in politic, in economic we know the term of free trade, in education the freedom of students to express their thoughts and ideas has a special place in the process of learning, in laws the freedom of prisoners becomes undeniable problem, while on philosophy freedom is discussed more specific and we know it as existentialism. Existentialists concern their study in human existence. They believe that man is free to choose which is true for him and life a totally committed life in it.

Freedom is also discussed in literature, many novelists use the term of freedom and explore it through the characters they write in the novel. Many existentialists' philosophers use literary form to convey their thoughts, and existentialism has been as vital and extensive movement in literature as in philosophy. The 19th century Russian novelist Fyodor Michailovich Dostoevsky is probably the greatest existentialist figure. At the center of all Dostoevsky writing is the problem of freedom. What is permitted and what is not permitted is a question that Dostoevsky dramatizes again and again, and one can regard the development of his work as a dramatic testing of the limits of freedom and progressive refinement of what he means by the concept of freedom.

Dostoevsky made his first jackpot with the publication of *Poor folks* in 1846. His master works include five novels; *Notes from the underground* (1864), *Crime and punishment* (1866), *The Idiot* (1869), *Demon* (1871-1872) and *the Brothers Karamazov* (1879-1881) (<http://www.Kirjasto.Sct.fi/fdasto.htm>).

The Brothers Karamazov which runs in Constance Garnett's translation has a length plot, blocked out in general point and counter point; a series of statement, the best of them are worked out, qualified or refute by what follow them. *The Brothers Karamazov* is Dostoevsky's closest tie to existentialism, many critics have said it was the quest of God and other said it was the problem of evil.

The Brothers Karamazov is a story of parricide. Dmitri, Ivan, Alyosha and Smerdyakov (the illegitimate son) are the sons of Fyodor Pavlovitch Karamazov; who are senile, mean, and sensual. All his children, expects Alyosha, who is a novice in the monastery, hate old Karamazov for different reasons. Dmitri is in love with the same woman as his father, Ivan hates his father because he is so nearly resemble his father who always lives at the expense of others, Smerdyakov loathes him for corrupting his mother and keep him as a serf. All the three brothers (except Alyosha) want the old man's money. When he is mysteriously murdered, all are feeling guilty although it is Smerdyakov who has actually committed the crime. *The Brothers Karamazov* is a challenging novel, how the freedom becomes the greatest burden placed on any individual. By using existentialism approach the researcher wants to analyze *The Brothers Karamazov*

to find out how Dostoevsky describes the human free will and its suffering, that is way the researcher encourages herself to give a title: Freedom in Dostoevsky's *Brothers Karamazov*: an existentialism approach.

B. Literature Review

The Brothers Karamazov is a challenging novel to be discussed. As long as the researcher concern in some University in Semarang, Jogja and Solo, there is only one early researcher who has made an analysis on this novel: *Lili Suherly, The specials significant of The Brothers Karamazov to Fyodor Dostoevsky, Gajah Mada University 1978*. She focused her study on some special significant life of Dostoevsky which reflected in *The Brothers Karamazov*. Having read the novel further, the researcher sees the aspect of free will that torments the major characters into a great despair in their existence. Thus the researcher is interested in analyzing the novel based on the existentialism approach.

C. Problem Statement

The major problem of the study is how Dostoevsky describes the human's free will as reflected in his *Brothers Karamazov*.

D. Limitation of the Study

In order to focus the study, the researcher limits her study on the problem of human's free will which Dostoevsky describes in the novel based on Kierkegaard's theory.

E. Objective of the Study

Based on the problem statement, the researcher arranges the objective of the study as follow:

1. To find the structural elements of *Brothers Karamazov*.
2. To analyze the novel by using existentialism approach.

F. Benefit of the Study

The benefit expected from this study includes the following:

1. To give some contributions to the English literary studies particularly the application of existentialism.
2. The study contributes to the literary research especially to the study of *Brothers Karamazov*.

G. Research method

In conducting the study, the researcher uses qualitative research or library research whose data based on human sources, especially printed materials.

The data is taken from dialogue, sentences, phrases, and words in *The Brothers Karamazov*. The researcher arranges the research methodology as follows:

1. Object of the study

The writer's object of the study is *The Brothers Karamazov* (1879-1880) written by Fyodor Michailovich Dostoevsky and translated by Constance Garnett.

2. Data sources

This study uses library research, whose data are taken from primary and secondary sources. The primary source is the novel. The secondary sources include the materials about the novel and the author, the theory and other data required.

3. Method of data collecting

The data collecting technique is documentation. In collecting the data, the researcher uses certain process:

- a. Reading the novel repeatedly to get the best comprehension of the structural elements of the novel.
- b. Reading some related books to get the theory, data and information required.
- c. Making notes of the important parts in primary and secondary data in cards.
- d. Classifying the data into groups according to categories of elements of literary studies.

4. Method of Data Analysis

The researcher uses two kinds of techniques on analyzing *The Brothers Karamazov*. The researcher makes interpretation of the texts meanwhile the second is contents analysis; the researcher digs some information stated implicitly within both primary and secondary data.

H. Paper Organization

The study consists of five chapters. The first chapter is introduction, which contains background of the study, literature review, problem statement, limitation of the study, and objective of the study, benefit of the study and research methodology. The second chapter is underlying theory. The third chapter is dealing with the structural element while the fourth chapter is existentialism analysis. In the last chapter the researcher closes the study by presenting some conclusion and suggestion.